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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/846,857

05/01/2001

Christopher K. Morzano

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11/19/2004

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EXAMINER

SAM, PHIRIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2661

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/846,857

Applicant(s)

MORZANO, CHRISTOPHER K.

Examiner

Phirin Sam

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14-17, 19-21 and 23-36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-13, 18 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 050101.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____


PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 10, 11, and 18 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1 and 3 of U. S. Patent No. 6,226,295 since the claims, if allowed, would improperly extend the "right to exclude" already granted in the patent.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant application's claims 10, 11, and 18, merely broaden the scope of claims 1 and 3 of U.S. application No. 6,226,295 by eliminating "at least two of the switches being connected to a controller for selectively routing ATM packets of data received on an input port to a selected output port, and wherein selected output ports of one or more of the at least two switches are coupled to each other and to an input port of a further switch" and "a plurality of parity generators, a plurality of parity checkers, one of the plurality of switches" respectively. It has been held that the omission of an element and its function is an obvious expedient if the remaining elements perform the same function as before. *In re Karlson*, 136 USPQ 184 (CCPA).

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Also note Ex parte Rainu, 168 USPQ 375 (Bd. App. 1969); omission of a reference element whose function is not needed would be obvious to one skilled in the art.

Furthermore, there is no apparent reason why applicant was prevented from presenting claims corresponding to those of the instant application during prosecution of the application which matured into a patent. See *In re Schneller*, 397 F.2d 350, 158 USPQ 210 (CCPA 1968). See also MPEP § 804.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 10-13, 18, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thomman et al (U.S. Patent 5,719,890).

Thomman et al discloses the invention (**claims 10 and 18**) as claimed including a switch comprising:

- (a) a plurality of serial input ports coupled to a first bus (see Fig. 1, element 104(0)-104(7), col. 3, lines 11-12).
- (b) a memory coupled to the input ports (see Fig. 1, elements 102 and 104, col. 3, lines 13-16).
- (c) a plurality of serial output ports (see Fig. 1, element 106(0)-106(7)) coupled to the memory (Fig. 1, element 102) and to a second bus, wherein each serial input port and each serial

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output port are coupled to a programmable counter having programmable start and stop values (see Fig. 2, elements 104(0)-104(7), 106(0)-106(7), and 116, col. 3, lines 35-42).

Regarding claim 11, Thomman et al further discloses the switch, comprising:

- (a) a parity generator coupled between the serial input ports and the memory (see Fig. 2, element 122, col. 3, lines 43-45).
- (b) a parity checker coupled between the memory and the serial output ports (see Fig. 2, element 124, col. 3, lines 46-49).

Regarding claim 12, Thomman et al discloses each of the serial input and serial output ports are double buffered (see Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 11-13).

Regarding claims 13 and 22, Thomman et al discloses the switch further comprising:

- (a) a controller coupled to the switch for controlling routing of ATM cells of data between the serial input ports and the serial output ports (see Fig. 2, element 114, col. 4, lines 50-64).

Allowable Subject Matter

- 5. Claims 14-17, 19-21, and 23-36 are allowed.

Conclusion

- 6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phirin Sam whose telephone number is (571) 272-3082. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

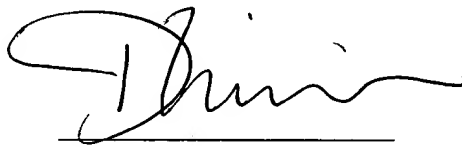
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kenneth N Vanderpuye can be reached on (571) 272 - 3078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 15, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phirin Sam", written over a horizontal line.

**PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER**